

## Learning Journeys

Crossing Continents:  
Stories of migration and the search for a better life



### Information sheet 1 Migration stories: a timeline

Links to: Information sheets **5** 'Land of milk and honey' **7** Facts and figures  
and **8** Where in the world...?

<b>before 1500</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In about 6000 BC Britain became an island, immigrants began to arrive by boat. Early settlers included Celts from central Europe, the Romans and Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians from modern-day Germany and Scandinavia.</li></ul>
<b>1555</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First black slaves brought to Britain</li></ul>
<b>1630</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First Asians brought to Britain as servants</li></ul>
<b>1783</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>US independence</li><li>Britain kept West Indies and Canadian colonies</li></ul>
<b>1790</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5000-10 000 black people living in Britain</li></ul>
<b>1807</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abolition of slavery agreed in principle</li></ul>
<b>1833</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Final abolition of the slave trade in Britain</li></ul>
<b>1914-18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First World War</li><li>Migration to Britain from dominions and colonies</li></ul>
<b>1939-45</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Second World War</li><li>Many empire soldiers, workers and refugees settled in Britain after the Second World War.</li></ul>
<b>1946</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First meeting of the UN General Assembly</li><li>In South Africa the National Census surveyed the population according to colour: white, asiatic, native and coloured. 20% of the population were white.</li></ul>
<b>1947</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>India gained independence</li><li>Partition: India and Pakistan became separate countries</li></ul>
<b>1948</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All Commonwealth citizens became British subjects</li><li>Windrush: start of West Indian migration to Britain</li></ul>
<b>1954</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peak of non-white migration to Britain from India and Pakistan (following Partition)</li><li>210 000 black people in Britain: less than 0.5% of population</li></ul>
<b>1956</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>London Transport started recruitment campaign in Barbados</li></ul>

<p><b>1958</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race riots in Notting Hill, London and Nottingham: violence on the streets marked a turning point in British race relations. This may have influenced migration policy and public opinion about laws governing British citizenship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1963</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristol bus boycott</li> </ul>
<p><b>1964</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Notting Hill Carnival</li> </ul>
<p><b>1965</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race Relations Act made discrimination on grounds of colour, race, ethnicity or national origin illegal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1968</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enoch Powell 'Rivers of Blood' speech: a political statement from a leading MP marked another turning point in race relations and British immigration law.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1972</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Asians living in Uganda fled to Britain</li> </ul>
<p><b>1976</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission for Racial Equality established</li> <li>• Notting Hill Carnival riots</li> </ul>
<p><b>1979</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vietnamese refugees fled to Britain</li> </ul>
<p><b>1980</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment in Britain reached almost two million – rising rapidly each year</li> <li>• Start of three-year spate of riots and racial tension in St Paul's, Bristol</li> </ul>
<p><b>1981</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Nationality Act</li> <li>• Race riots in Brixton, South London, Toxteth and Moss Side, Liverpool</li> </ul>
<p><b>1982</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three million unemployed in Britain</li> </ul>
<p><b>1985</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race riots in Handsworth, Birmingham</li> <li>• Riots in Brixton and Tottenham, PC Keith Blakelock murdered</li> </ul>
<p><b>1987</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four black Labour MPs elected to Parliament</li> </ul>
<p><b>1992</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Morris, first black leader of largest trade union, TGWU</li> </ul>
<p><b>1993</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teenager Stephen Lawrence murdered in racist attack, south east London</li> </ul>
<p><b>1994</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First free elections in South Africa</li> </ul>
<p><b>At the turn of the 21st century</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees from Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Balkans enter the UK as a result of oppressive political regimes and warfare.</li> </ul>